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COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTH SHIELDS.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year 1941.

W. CAMPBELL LYONS,
M.B., CL.B., D.P.H.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

HAVE the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of the School Medical Service for the year 1941.

There is no evidence that the health of the school children has in any way deteriorated since the beginning of the war.

I have been in almost daily communication with the Education Authorities and School Medical Officers of the Reception Areas regarding children from South Shields who have been evacuated and I must record my appreciation of the attention which has been given to the South Shields children in those areas. Not only have the children received the treatment they would have received under our own scheme, but great care has been taken to see that appropriate treatment was provided for more serious conditions.

All the services appertaining to the School Medical Service were carried out in full during the year. These included inspections, minor ailments, eye, dental, sun-ray and surgical clinics, examination of exceptional children. orthopaedic and other hospital treatment.

The service was carried on in spite of many difficulties. This was due to the work, and frequently overwork, of the members of my staff, to whom I have pleasure in expressing my thanks.

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W. CAMPBELL LYONS,

School Medical Officer.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE. Annual Report of the School Medical Officer.

STAFF.

The staff remains as set out in my annual report for 1940, except that an additional school nurse has been appointed.

CO-ORDINATION.

Co-ordination with the other branches of the Council's medical services has been maintained as before.

The following are the reports made to me by the Assistant School Medical Officers, School Dentist and the Consultant Ophthalmologist.

THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE IN RELATION TO PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Number of children on the register at end of 1941	11,543
Average attendance for the year (88.6 per cent.)	11,885
Number of elementary schools (excluding the	
School for the Partially Sighted, the Open-Air	~
School and the Day Special School)	-22°
Number of elementary departments	46
Number of children on registers of special schools at	
end of 1941	200
Average attendance at special schools (81.2 per cent)	205

School Hygiene and Sanitation

No important alterations were carried out in 1941.

Medical Inspection.

The thanks of the School Medical Service are gratefully recorded to the teachers who have co-operated most willingly.

The number of children examined at routine and special inspections during 1941 is as follows:—

1. Routine Medical Inspections.

Entrants (5-6 years) Intermediates (8-9 years) Leavers (12-13 years)	1,632° 1,221 1,170
Total	4,023

2. Other Inspections.

Number	of	Special	Inspections	and	
Re-ins	specti	ons			14,658

The annual routine inspection at the Special Schools and the nutritional and cleanliness survey are not included in the above figures.

"Other inspections" include the examination of children referred to the clinic by parents, teachers and health visitors.

Nutrition.

A nutritional survey was carried out at Midsummer, 1941, with the following results:—

Approximate number of children examined	11,500
Number of children recommended for free milk	2,081
Number of children granted free milk	951
Number of children not granted free milk (over	
scale)	375
Number of children whose parents refused free milk	755
Approximate number of children who received milk	
under the Milk Marketing Board's scheme of	
part payment	7,319

Cleanliness.

Two surveys were carried out, but the second had not been completed before the end of the year. In spite of repeated inspections by the school nurses and the co-operation of teachers, the number of children found to be unclean continues to rise. At the first survey it was revealed that 23.3 per cent of the 12,194 children examined were unclean. At the second examination the figure was 29.4 per cent of 8,399 examined.

No compulsory cleansing orders or notices under Section 87 of the Education Act were served during the year.

Visual Defects and External Eye Diseases.

At the routine or special inspections 350 cases of defective vision and 4 cases of squint were referred for treatment. Seven cases of conjunctivitis were found.

Nose and Throat Defects.

The number of children requiring treatment for nose and throat defects was 148 or 4 per cent of the children examined.

Ear Disease and Defective Hearing.

Fourteen children were found to have defective hearing. Those suffering from otitis media numbered 21 and those with other ear diseases 17.

Tuberculosis.

There was a decrease in the number of cases of tuberculosis among school children during 1941.

Sixty-three children were referred by the school medical officers for examination by the tuberculosis medical officer during 1941 compared with 66 in the previous year. Of these, 18 were suffering from tuberculosis (pulmonary 12, non-pulmonary 6).

The following table shows the incidence of tuberculosis among children of school age, as revealed by notifications received by the Medical Officer of Health or otherwise ascertained:—

	1940.		1941.	
A one Charman	Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.	
Age-Group. 5—10 years	Boys. 9	Girls. 9	Boys. 7 5	Girls. 11 6
Total		36	29	
	Non-Pulmonary.		Non-Pu	lmonary.
5—10 years	10 8	3 6	10	4
Total	27 29		*)()	

Following-up.

The Health Visitors paid 622 visits to the homes of school children to ascertain whether the necessary treatment was being obtained; 744 visits in connection with uncleanliness; 558 visits after surgical and dental treatment; 65 in connection with orthopaedic cases; 458 regarding mentally defective children and 23 visits for other miscellaneous purposes. in connection with the school medical service. In addition, 41 visits were paid to the schools for similar purposes and 108 visits for routine medical inspection apart from 471 visits to the schools in connection with cleanliness surveys. Eighty-four visits to schools were paid by health visitors in connection with evacuation. This is in addition to the visits paid to the homes regarding tuberculosis, infant welfare and infectious diseases. The health visitors and school nurses also attended 444 sessions at the general school clinics, 228 sessions dental clinics, 203 sessions for artificial sunlight treatment, 54 sessions for treatment by ionization, daily sessions for the treatment of scabies, 14 sessions at the clinic for the examination of evacuees and 43 sessions for immunisation, apart from the attendances at child welfare, tuberculosis and other clinics.

Medical Treatment.

School clinics continued to be carried out in the temporary premises at Laygate Infant School until October when the building was damaged in an air raid. Since then the clinics have been held in the Municipal Clinic as in prewar days. The numbers of children attending have increased since 1940.

Number of children who attended the School Clinic	
in 1941	6,129
Number of these who were treated	4.488

The total number of attendances was 15,379 as compared with 12,990 in 1940.

The numbers treated as given in the following paragraph refer to the elementary school children only, although the same facilities are available also to pupils of the secondary schools.

Skin Diseases.

The number of children who received treatment was as follows:—

Impetigo	258
Ringworm (scalp)	9
Ringworm (body)	15
Scabies	586
Other skin diseases	1,028

In spite of the measures taken to deal with scabies, the number of cases continues to increase. 586 cases were treated at the school clinic in 1941 as compared to 311 in 1940. Most of these cases had the treatment carried out by a nurse with the assistance of the personnel from a first-aid post at the municipal clinic. The homes were visited for the purpose of finding and treating any other affected members of the family. Bedding and clothing were removed for disinfection.

Vision.

During the year 664 cases were submitted for refraction. In 625 of these, spectacles were prescribed. The number of spectacles supplied through the Education Authority's scheme was 610.

Nose and Throat Defects.

During 1941, 189 elementary school children received operative treatment for enlarged tonsils and adenoids at the General Hospital under the Authority's scheme.

Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.

During the year 38 cases were referred from the school clinic to the orthopaedic department of the Ingham Infirmary. These may be summarised briefly as follows:—

- 1 child had early tuberculosis of hip.
- 1 child had suspected tuberculosis of spine.
- 5 children had curvature of the spine.
- 1 child had partial dislocation of neck (accident at play).
- 1 child had diaplegia.
- 2 children suffered from the effects of infantile paralysis.
- 1 child had Schlatters disease.
- 1 child suffered from weakness of legs following diphtheria.
- 3 children had congenital deformities of feet.
- 12 children had flat feet.
- 1 child had flat feet and hallux valgus.
- 1 child had flat feet and hammer toe.
- 1 child had flat feet and genu varum.
- 1 child had chronic bursitis of heels.
- 1 child had a scar on foot following accident.
- 1 child had congenital wry neck.
- 1 child had Bell's palsy.
- 1 child suffered from the effects of an old fracture of head of ulna.
- 1 child had a ruptured finger tendon (accident at play).
- 1 child suffered from a birth palsy.

In addition, 12 children referred to in previous years continued in attendance at the Infirmary during 1941. A total of five operations were performed. The patients were in hospital a total of 77 days and they made 701 attendances at the out patient department. Five children were provided with surgical appliances. Fifteen school children whose parents were subscribers to the funds of the Ingham Infirmary, also received treatment otherwise than at the cost of the local Education Authority. At the end of the year one child was attending a residential school for cripples.

Dental Defects.

The following is the report of the School Dental Surgeon, Mr F. Innes, L.D.S.:—

"During 1941 routine dental inspections have been carried out in all schools in the Borough and the necessary treatment completed where consent was obtained.

It is now possible to inspect and test all the children in about nine to ten months and consequently some of the schools have been inspected twice during the year.

This is partly due to the decreasing school population during the last few years consequent on evacuation, and partly to the steady improvement in the condition of the teeth with a consequent decline in the number of children needing treatment.

Whereas in 1930 72.6 per cent of the children had dental defects and required treatment, this figure has gradually declined until last year it was only 49 per cent.

There has been a steady annual improvement as the following figures show:—

In 1930 73 per cent of the children required treatment.

In 1932 67 per cent of the children required treatment.

In 1936 61 per cent of the children required treatment.

In 1940 52 per cent of the children required treatment.

In 1941 49 per cent of the children required treatment.

During the year a total of 12,971 children were inspected; 12,301 at elementary schools, 598 at high schools and 72 special cases. 6,251 required treatment and in 3,173 cases treatment was completed at the clinic.

The treatment included 1,034 fillings and 7,917 extractions (1,236 permanent and 6,681 deciduous teeth). Some of the extractions of permanent teeth were necessary to rectify a crowded condition of the mouth.

Many parents have an objection to fillings, as a result teeth which could be saved are ultimately lost.

With the all-round improvement in the general condition of the teeth the number of special cases coming to the clinic complaining of toothache has gone down considerably in the last few years."

Ultra-Violet Ray Therapy.

128 children of school age were treated by ultra-violet radiation including treatment by the Kromayer lamp.

The following is a summary of the conditions treated:—

Type of case	No treat		Ceased attend ing		Still under treat ment
Conjunctivitis, blepharitis,			0		
etc	2	-	2		
Tuberculous glands	29		11*	14	4
Diphtheria carriers	27	27			
Bronchitis	7		2	5	
Debility	23	9	7	6	1
Alopecia	10	2	3	5	
Post-diphtheritic debility	14	7	4	2	1
Post-diphtheritic paralysis	1			1	
Diseases of the skin	2	1		1	_
Asthma	7		1	5	1
Chorea	2		1	1	
Rheumatism	2	parameter and all the second		2	
Anaemia	1		1		
Sinus	1	-	1	and the same of th	
				-	
* 5 due to evacuation	128	46	33	42	7

Jonization.

17 children were treated by zinc ionization for chronic ear discharge; of these 5 were cured, 10 ceased attending (one due to evacuation) and 2 are still attending.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Voluntary immunisation under the Authority's scheme during 1940 was continued. 658 school children were immunised, falling into the following age-groups:—

Age	Numbers.	Age	Numbers.
4	144	10	26
5	216	11	20
6	104	12	27
7	41	13	17
8	41	14	3
9	19		

Physical Education.

The following is a report of the Physical Education Organisers:—

"For the greater part of last year practically all schools in the Borough were back to full-time education for the first time since war broke out. Physical education once more took its rightful place in the time-table and in most schools a daily period is given.

Despite the existing difficulties, we have still been able to keep all schools supplied with suitable shoes for physical training, and as the air-raids decreased and the children got more expert in getting to the shelters quickly we also find more schools are encouraging children to dress suitably for this subject.

During the Summer term particularly, the few schools that have shower baths made reasonable use of them and for many children "showering" was a popular event. Unfortunately some of the parents are not convinced of the benefits of these showers or the propriety of them. It is regretted that, owing to the national situation at present it is impossible to extend these amenities to a larger number of schools.

During the Autumn term the Board of Education organised a Training Course in Physical Education for the benefit of the older men who were now being called upon to take this subject in place of the younger colleagues who have joined H.M. Forces. The men greatly appreciated this and have got a renewed and keen interest in the subject.

Swimming has of necessity been out of the curriculum as the baths were partially destroyed by enemy action.

Despite the great prominence given to "Youth Work" and the facilities offered in many subjects by the Education Committee, as far as Physical Education goes the response is disappointing and a comparatively small number of the youth of the town are taking part in organised recreation of Physical Education at the present time."

School Baths.

Instruction by the Education Authority's instructors was restricted on account of damage to the Public Baths. The number of swimming certificates granted during the year was as follows:—

Elementary schools	420
Secondary schools	8

Five medallions and 6 Intermediate certificates were awarded by the Royal Life Saving Society.

School children made 24,634 attendances at the baths; (boys 17,922; girls 6,712.).

From October 2nd the swimming bath was not in operation.

Provision of Meals and Milk.

There was a decrease in the number of children supplied with free meals during the year. The total number of dinners supplied was 56,679, at a cost of £1,416 19s 6d, the number of children supplied at the six centres being 454. During 1940 733 children were fed at a cost of £2,326 9s 2d.

BLIND, DEAF AND PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

Mental Deficiency.

During 1941, 51 children reported by the head teachers as very much retarded in educational progress or brought to notice in other ways were specially examined by the assistant school medical officers with the following results:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total
Dull and backward	17	19	36
Feeble minded:—			
For special day school	3	4	7
For residential school	3	1	4
Delinquent	1	1	1
Normal or average	2		2
Inconclusive (to be re-examined).		1	1

In addition a boy and a girl were referred to the Board of Education under Article 3 of the Mental Deficiency Regulations, and 7 boys and 7 girls in attendance at special schools were recommended for notification to the Mental Deficiency Act Committee under Article 4, with a view to their being sent to an institution or kept under statutory supervision or guardianship.

One child under 7 years of age was also informally reported to the Local Control Authority as ineducable and another child previously classified as feeble-minded was re-diagnosed "dull and backward" and de-certified.

At the end of 1941 there were 96 ascertained educable feeble-minded children under the jurisdiction of the Education Authority, as under:—

Boys. Girls. Total...

	_		
At certified residential schools for mentally defective children	1	1	2
At a certified day school for			
mentally defective children	25	26	51
At public elementary schools	3	4	7
Evacuated to a reception area	5	8	13
At no school or institution	13	10	23

Of the 23 children at no school or institution, 10 boys and 5 girls were working; 2 boys and 1 girl were physically unfit as well as being mentally defective, and 1 boy and 4 girls aged between 14 and 15 were at home.

At the end of the year, owing to shortage of medical staff with the necessary qualifications for certifying officers as approved by the Board of Education, there were 20 children presumably feeble-minded who were awaiting examination and certification.

Difficulty has been experienced in obtaining the admission of epileptic and low grade mental defectives into suitable institutions.

Special Day School.

This school is still accommodated in two rooms at the Open Air School and School for Partially Sighted children. The accommodation is not adequate since two teachers are

working in one room all day and there are no facilities for indoor physical and rhythmic work or intensive handwork. Some provision has now been made for domestic science and 12 boys and 12 girls attend for instruction in these subjects at Cleadon Park School.

The average number on the register was 63.27.

Of the "leavers" 7 left school on reaching the leaving age of 16 years; 8 were permitted to leave before the recognised age; 10 found employment; one left on medical grounds, and some children were evacuated to other areas. There were seven admissions during the year.

School for Partially Sighted Children.

At the end of the year, 28 children were in attendance at this school and were classified as follows:—

Hypermetropia with squint	1
Highly myopic	11
Coloboma of iris and choroid	3
Nystagmus	1
Choroiditis	1
Opacities of cornea	5
Cataracts	2
Hypermetropic astigmatism	1
Optic atrophy	1
Old interstitial keratitis	2

The children were examined by the Ophthalmologist who, in sending a report on each individual child says: "I am glad to say that nearly every case has shown improvement and I was impressed very much with the general mental improvement. This reflects great credit on Mrs Steele, who is in charge."

Speech Training.

It is expected that the speech training centre which has not been functioning since the beginning of the war will be reopened early in 1942.

Open Air School.

During 1941 the average number of children attending was 110, the average attendance being 82 per cent. Their ages range from 5 to 15 years old and the children are disposed in three classes. During the year 44 children were admitted.

Shoeless Children's Fund.

The Chief Constable reports that 2,398 children were supplied with boots and stockings during the year through this Fund, of which he is the Honorary Secretary.

Convalescent Home.

21 school children were admitted to the Cottage Homes during 1941. 932 in-patient days were spent there by the children, which corresponds to an average of about three patients per day.

Higher Education for the Blind.

At the end of the year one boy and two girls were in attendance at a certified school for the blind and two girls, were attending Higher Education Courses.

MISCELLANEOUS

Junior Instruction Centre.

Regular visits have been paid to the Junior Instruction Centres during 1941. Defects were noted and treatment offered where necessary.

The number of individual juveniles who attended the centres at any time during the year was: boys, 394; girls, 463; with an average daily attendance of 15. Eight boys and 7 girls required medical treatment and 12 boys and 56 girls needed dental treatment. Other physical defects found in the course of routine inspection included:—

Eye defects	6
Nose and throat defects for operative	
treatment	1
Anaemia	3

Heart diseases	1
Defective hearing	1
Rheumatism	1
Inguinal hernia	1
Fracture	1

With regard to dental conditions, 20 juveniles were treated; there were 45 extractions and 5 fillings.

The state of nutrition of the 217 juveniles specially examined was as under:—

			Sugntly Sub-		
	Excellen	t. Normal.	normal.	Bad.	Total.
Boys	 5	43	5	None	53
Girls	 33	117	14	None	164

All trainees received two-thirds of a pint of milk and biscuits each session.

Examination of Scholarship and Special Place Candidates.

196 candidates were inspected, the defects discovered being:—

Scabies	2
Asthma	2
Carious teeth	65
Defective vision	19
Chronic tonsillitis	2
Blepharitis	2
Systolic murmur	1

The parents were advised as to the appropriate treatment.

Examination of Children for the Stage.

Eight children who required certificates for stage performances were examined. All were granted the necessary certificates.

Deaths of School Children.

The following is a statement of the causes of death during 1941 of children of school age (5-14 years).

	Во	ys.	Gi		
CAUSES OF DEATH.	5-9 years	10-14 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	Total.
Measles Diphtheria Polio-encephalitis Tuberculosis—lungs ,, —meninges ,, —abdomen Septicaemia Anaemia Meningitis Epilepsy Bronchitis Broncho-pneumonia Lobar pneumonia Lobar pneumonia Nephritis Congenital heart disease Accidents, injuries etc. War operations Ill-defined cause	2 3 1 1 3	2 1 2 1 2 3	3 1 1 1 1 1 	1 2 1 1 	1 12 1 6 4 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Total		11	12	7	54

Table 1.—Medical Inspections During the Year ended 31st December, 1941.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Elementary. Higher. Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups:— Entrants 1,632 1,221 Second Age Group (Intermediates) 690 Third Age Group (Leavers) 1,170 / Total 4,023 690 Number of other Routine Inspections Grand Total 4,023 690 B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS. Number of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections 14,658 193

Table	2	Classific	atio	n of	the	Nutrition	of	Children
Inspe	ected	during	the	Year	in the	Routine	Age	Groups.

Inspected dur	ing the Y	ear i	n th	e Rou	tine	Age	e Gi	roup	S.
	No. of Children inspected.	A. (Exc lent	el-	B.		su	ghtly		Bad).
Elem. Schools Higher Schools	$4,023 \\ 690$	No. 893 257	$igg \begin{array}{c} \% \\ 22.2 \\ 37.2 \\ \end{array}$		65.7 50.0		$\frac{\%}{11.4}$ 12.6		% 0.7 0.2
_	(excludi nber of onder trea	ng ur defect atmen	nclea s tre t du	nline Ele eated iring				_	
Author GROUP II.—TF	year ority's s REATME T. Unde	cheme NT O	e F DI	EFEC'	TIVI	E V	ISIC	80 ON <i>A</i>	AND
Errors of squint Other de	refracti	on (i diseas	nclu e of	Eleding	men 66	tary	Hi	ghei	r.
	ded in G		[)	• • • • • •	66	- 64 		63	
No. of child (a) Preso (b) Obta	eribed		• • • • • • •	• • • • • •	were 62 61	25		63 62	
GROUP III		MENT ND TI			FEC'	TS (OF	NOS	SE'
Received Received treat		fo	rms	of	18	3 3		1	

Total number treated

192

2

Table 4.—Dental Inspection and Treatment.

(1) Number of Children who were inspected by the Dentist:

(a) Routine Age-groups.

	Age. Ele	mentary.	Higher.
	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 Total	12 1,183 1,356 1,443 1,575 1,490 1,534 1,039 1,092 1,142 385 48 2	 5 112 137 146 97 76 18 4 3 598
(}	b) Specials	72	<i>9</i> 90
	Number found to require treat-	(2	-
(0)	ment	6,028	223
(3)	Number actually treated (by School Dentists)	3,071	102
(4)	Attendances made by children for treatment	3,733	170
(5)	Fillings:— Permanent teeth	024	100
	Temporary teeth	934	100
(6)	Extractions:— Permanent teeth Temporary teeth		58 43
(7)	Administration of general anaesthetics for extractions	101	
(8)	Other operations:— Permanent teeth Temporary teeth	108	4
(9)	Half-days devoted to:— Inspections, 124; Treatment, 636	3: Total, 7	60.

Table 5.—Verminous Conditions.

		Second Survey.
(i) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School		× .
Nurses for cleanliness surveys	5	5
(ii) Total number of examinations of children in the schools by School Nurses:—		
(a) Children examined	12,194	8,399
(b) Examinations made	16,054	• •
(iii) No. of individual children found unclean	2,837	2,471
(iv) No. of individual children cleansed		
under Section 87 (2) and (3) of the		
Education Act, 1921	• •	• •
(v) No. of cases in which legal proceedings were taken		
(a) Under the Education Act,		
1921	• •	• •
(b) Under the School Attend-		
ance Byelaws	• •	• •

Table 6.—Blind and Deaf Children.

Number of totally or almost totally Blind and Deaf children who are not at the present time receiving education suitable for their special needs:—

		Blind	Deaf
		Children.	Children.
(1)	At a Public Elementary School	• •	2
(2)	At an Institution other than a Special School		
(3)	At no School or Institution	1	1
	Total not receiving suitable Education	1	3
	Ŭ		

Mentally Defective Children.

Total number of children notified during the year ended 31st December, 1941, by the Local Education Authority to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority under the Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulation, 1928:—15.